

13th November 1922]

Punitive tax in Guntur district.

407 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the district magistrate, Guntur, laying down the lines on which the punitive tax is to be collected in the Guntur district, and, if so, to place them on the table;

(b) the amount of the tax so collected and the persons from whom the said tax was collected; and

(c) whether for the purpose of levying punitive tax the local authorities made lists of all persons who are members of the congress organizations, or who are in the habit of wearing khaddar, and whether the collection of the tax was confined to the above classes of persons?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answers to questions Nos. 200, 392 supra and 462 infra and to the communiqué issued by the district magistrate, Guntur, on October 15th, which was published in the papers.

The applicability of the report of the Calcutta University Commission to South India.

408 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report of the committee appointed to consider, in the light of the recommendations of the University of Madras, the applicability of the report of the Calcutta University Commission to South India, has been received, and if so, to place the same on the table; and

(b) the expenditure, from public funds, incurred in connexion with the above committee?

A.—(a) The final report of the committee has not yet been received.

(b) Rs. 8,953-4-0.

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Referring to question No. 408 (a) I wish to know whether any interim report was received from the committee, and if so, whether it will be placed on the table.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—“Only the resolutions of the committee were received and further report is awaited.”

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Would the resolutions be placed on the table of the House for information?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—“No useful purpose will be served without having the full discussion of the committee.”

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Will it not be useful in view of the University Bill likely to come up for discussion?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—“I do not agree with the hon. Member.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“It is indeed a compliment to the committee that sat.”

The Mittur project.

409 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether final orders have been passed on the Mittur project; if not, in what stage the matter is at present?

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A.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative ; the consideration of the project has been held over pending the final settlement between the Madras Government and the Mysore Darbar in regard to the Mysore (Kannambadi) Krishnarajasagara reservoir.

Specialist for millets.

11-15 a.m.

410 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(1) whether a specialist for millets has been appointed ; if so, when he was appointed ;

(2) whether the specialist is given a station for his work ; if not, how his work is now done ;

(3) whether the Government are aware that there is a wide complaint that nothing has been done for the dry food-crops ; and

(4) whether the Government will give preference to work on dry food-crops, seeing that they are grown on by far the major portion of the cultivated lands in the Presidency and they are the chief staple food of the people ?

A.—(1) Yes : on the 25th November 1921.

(2) He has not yet been given a station. As a preliminary to commencing breeding work, the officer has been visiting the most important sorghum areas and has made a detailed examination of the various types of the plant represented in the crops of the local varieties. He is making a further examination of these types in the laboratory.

(3) No complaint has reached the Government.

(4) As the hon. Member is doubtless aware, the special officer to work on millets has been recruited solely with a view to devoting greater attention to the study of the important problems connected with the chief dry food-grains, and proposals for giving the officer a separate station, where he can commence the work on breeding new strains, are under the consideration of Government. It is not a fact that no attention has been paid to the study of dry grains. Work has been and is being done in the circle farms. The hon. Member is also informed that rice is the chief staple food-crop in the Presidency, being used in all the districts.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ Does the hon. the Minister for Development think that rice is the chief staple food-crop in the Presidency, on account of the fact that it is used in all the districts or on account of the fact that a large number of people use it ? ”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ I want notice of the question.”

The Publicity Bureau.

411 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) (a) the actual expenditure incurred on account of the Publicity Bureau in the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 under the heads paper, printing and postage ; why this expenditure on paper and printing is not generally shown in the budget estimate under the heading “ Publicity Bureau ” ;